

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. The position of KANG Yang-ok (康良燮),* chief secretary of the North Korean Supreme People's Committee, was uncertain ideologically from 1947 on. He was a priority target in an outbreak of rioting caused by rightist students in Pyongyang in 1946 and, although he himself escaped injury, his son and daughter were killed by the rioters. In 1947, however, KANG was overheard discussing religious and philosophic topics from a viewpoint not generally found among Communists.
2. On 4 July 1950, the North Korean government moved a large supply of weapons and ammunition from Pyongyang to Sopo (125-44, 39-05), a town a few miles north of the capital. About two days later, UN planes raided Sopo, causing extensive damage and loss of materiel. Since the raid followed so promptly after the movement of supplies, the North Korean authorities suspected espionage.
3. In August 1950, a rumor was current in North Korean legislative circles that KANG was suspected of espionage not only in the case of the Sopo raid but in an undetermined number of other incidents. Additional suspicion was thrown on him because he had been a Protestant minister before World War II and had belonged to the Chosun Democratic Party. According to a close connection of a North Korean assemblyman, it was rumored that KANG was ordered to be shot by the State Security Bureau.
4. In December 1950, a rumor arose in North Korean government circles that KANG had been reprieved and was still alive, although his whereabouts were unknown.

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